

A2
said absorbent layer is fixed with a water-soluble thickener on a prescribed region of
said absorbent article.

sub 01
A3 6. (Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 5, wherein said agent
is fixed on a skin-contacting surface of said absorbent article.

A4
10. (Amended) Skin-care agent-containing fiber comprising fiber and an
effective amount of a skin-care agent containing substantially no water fixed on said
fiber in a state ready to be released on contact with moisture.

Please add the following claims:

sub 02
A5 12. An absorbent article comprising a liquid-permeable top layer, liquid
impermeable leak proof layer and a liquid retentive absorbent layer interposed
between said top layer and said leak proof layer, said absorbent layer containing a
superabsorbent polymer, a main absorbing region in said top layer being provided
with a skin-care composition consisting essentially of an agent which is released
from said region, and dissolves or disburses in water upon contacting with a water
content, said agent having substantially no decomposing action on said
superabsorbent polymer.--

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AS
--13. An absorbent article comprising a liquid-permeable top layer, liquid impermeable leak proof layer and a liquid retentive absorbent layer interposed between said top layer and said leak proof layer, said absorbent layer containing a superabsorbent polymer, a main absorbing region in said top layer being provided with a skin-care composition consisting essentially of an agent which is released from said region, and dissolves or disburses in water upon contacting with a water content, and a water-soluble thickener which fixes said agent on said region, said agent having substantially no decomposing action on said superabsorbent polymer.--

--14. The skin-care agent-containing fiber according to claim 11, wherein said skin-care agent is fixed on said fiber by applying a mixture of said skin-care agent and said textile oil or 1,3-butylene glycol to the surface of said fiber followed by drying.--

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-14 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.